SPRING 2013 Casulte In NAEP NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

Assessment news for high school teachers

Thank You!

Thank you to all students who participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2013 assessments and helped to make them a success. NAEP 2013 included assessments in mathematics and reading in grades 4, 8, and 12. The NAEP 2013 grade 12 assessment was offered to a sample of about 80,000 public school students at 1,690 schools. Results will be reported in spring 2014.



A New Focus on Word Meaning

NAEP integrates a measure of students' understanding of word meaning with the measurement of passage comprehension in the NAEP reading assessment. The decision to focus on students' understanding of word meaning emphasized the important role vocabulary plays in the process of reading comprehension. To understand the overall topic or theme, students need to integrate their knowledge of individual words, or a sense of these words, with the way words are used in particular passages. For example, a reader may understand the meaning of "acute" in the context of mathematics to describe the angles of a triangle, but may not have encountered the word used to describe human emotions, as in "acute embarrassment." Having a sense of words that is sufficiently flexible helps readers extend their understanding of the word and understand its use in a new context.

Understanding word meaning has always been essential to reading comprehension. Whether reading the printed page or computer screen, a strong sense of word meaning provides a basis for greater comprehension in an increasingly fast-paced world.

How did students perform?

Students who scored higher on NAEP vocabulary questions also scored higher in reading comprehension.

There was no significant gender gap in vocabulary at twelfth-grade.

National Center for Education Statistics (2012). The Nation's Report Card: Vocabulary Results From the 2009 and 2011 NAEP Reading Assessments (NCES 2013–452). Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

The Vocabulary Assessment Design

Vocabulary questions appeared in two sections of the NAEP reading assessment: comprehension and vocabulary. The sections differed in the length of the reading texts and in the number of vocabulary questions. The vocabulary questions in the comprehension sections are included within a larger set of questions and are based on longer passages. Examples of vocabulary questions from reading comprehension sections are available at http://nationsreportcard.gov/ reading_2011/voc_sample_quest.asp.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS WERE INCLUDED IN TWO TYPES OF SECTIONS

COMPREHENSION

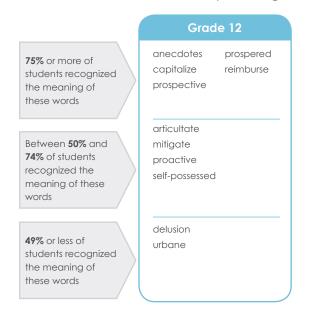
- Full-length passages containing up to 1,200 words at grade 12.
- Approximately 10 multiple-choice and constructed-response questions, 2 of which were multiple-choice vocabulary questions.

- Shorter passages containing up to 600 words at grade 12.
- Approximately 5 multiple-choice vocabulary questions.

For more information on assessment design, see the Technical Notes section in *The Nation's Report Card*: Vocabulary Results From the 2009 and 2011 NAEP Reading Assessments (NCES 2013–452). This report is also available at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/ main2011/2013452.pdf.

Vocabulary Word List

The chart below shows words from released comprehension and vocabulary sections and the proportion of students at each grade who understood how the words were used to convey meaning.



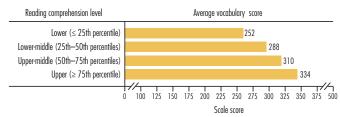
For more information, go to http://www. nationsreportcard.gov/reading_2011/voc_summary.asp.

Reporting NAEP Vocabulary Results

NAEP vocabulary results are reported as the percentage of students who correctly answered vocabulary questions and as average scores on a 0-500 scale for grade 12. While vocabulary results cannot be reported in terms of the NAEP achievement levels (Basic, Proficient, and Advanced), scores are reported to show patterns in results for students performing in the lower (10th and 25th), middle (50th), and higher (75th and 90th) percentiles.

The figure below shows the average scores in NAEP vocabulary at grade 12 by reading comprehension level.

Average scores in NAEP vocabulary at grade 12 by reading comprehension level: 2009



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Reading Assessments.

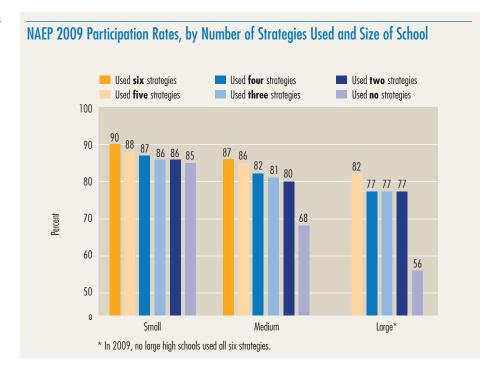
Best Practices for Supporting Twelfth-Grade NAEP Participation

Thanks to all the principals and teachers who used the strategies outlined in the *Best Practices Guide for Supporting Twelfth-Grade NAEP Participation* for NAEP 2013. The strategies described within the guide were suggested by a working group of high school principals. Each year, the guide is updated to reflect lessons learned from previous assessments. Principals and teachers have found the strategies in the guide to be effective tools for enhancing student motivation and participation. For NAEP 2013, the *Best Practices Guide* was made available on a flash drive, which provides all resources in an interactive format.

The graph below compares the student participation rates from the last grade 12 NAEP administration of mathematics and reading (NAEP 2009) based on using the strategies to motivate students to participate versus not using any strategies. Participation rates are shown for small (fewer than 300 seniors), medium (between 300 and 600 seniors), and large (more than 600 seniors) high schools. Schools that implemented one or more strategies had significantly higher participation rates, especially in large schools. NAEP 2013 participation rates are expected to show a similar trend – higher rates for schools that implement more strategies.

Over the past several years, the high school student participation rate on NAEP has increased dramatically. Six strategies emerged that were associated with a statistically significant difference in average student participation rates between schools that used the strategies and those that did not. They include the following:

- hold a meeting of seniors to explain NAEP and how important it is that all students selected participate and try hard;
- hold a faculty meeting to explain NAEP and the importance of student participation and motivation;
- thank students for participating in NAEP;
- share NAEP publications with school faculty;
- provide food for students before or after the assessment; and
- place NAEP on the school calendar.



Do you have any suggestions for supporting NAEP participation among seniors?

Send your ideas to http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contactus.asp!

NAEP Results

Get NAEP Results On the Go with the Mobile App

NAEP at your fingertips! Stats in the palm of your hand! Delve into the latest NAEP news, results, sample questions, brochures, and more. Discover what the nation's students know and can do on the latest NAEP assessments. Learn more about the academic achievement of elementary, middle, and high school students. Are you an educator, parent, or a student? This app is for you. Test yourself and your students.











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- tips for using online NAEP tools;
- NAEP questions to test your knowledge compared to that of the nation's students; and
- NAEP publications.

For more information about NAEP, go to http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard.















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Online Resources

Sample Questions Booklets

Examine the types of questions students will be answering at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp

Content Area Frameworks

Review the frameworks that guide the development of the NAEP assessment and determine the content to be assessed at

http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/frameworks.asp

Information for Educators

Create your own NAEP test and see what students know and can do at

http://nationsreportcard.gov/educators.asp

Information for Students

Allow students to test themselves using NAEP questions at

http://nationsreportcard.gov/students.asp

Data Tools

Explore NAEP results with online data tools at http://nationsreportcard.gov/data_tools.asp

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